

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5491

S E C R E T JIDDA 5365
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: EVERYBODY WANTS TO HELP THE SAUDIS SPEND
THEIR MONEY

1. WHILE DEPARTMENT'S BRIEFING OF OBERDORFER AND GWERTZMAN ON
SUBJECT SAUDI PURCHASE OF MISSILE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN WAS PROBABLY
HELPFUL IN COUNTERACTING LOCAL EFFECT OF PRETENTIOUS STATEMENT
OF BADRAN ("JORDAN HAS DECIDED TO PURCHASE AMERICAN MISSILE
SYSTEM"), PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT SAG DOES NOT APPRECIATE
PUBLIC DISCUSSION RELATING IT TO ARMS DEALS. ALSO MORE EMPHASIS
ON SAUDI ROLE AND LESS ON HUSSEIN WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL HERE.

2. ALSO, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT
TO THE SHAH OF IRAN TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN JORDANIAN RELATIONS
WITH THE SAUDIS. THE SHAH IS RESPECTED BY THE SAUDIS, BUT
THEY DON'T SEEK HIS OPINION ON SUCH MATTERS.

3. AMONG SYMPTOMS OF SAUDI RESTIVENESS AS OTHERS TELL THEM
HOW TO SPEND THEIR MONEY IS THEIR PRESENT FEELING OF ANNOYANCE
AT SADAT'S RECENT SPEECH, DURING WHICH HE INDICATED THE TWO
BILLION DOLLAR FUND THAT SAUDIS, KUWAITIS AND OTHERS HAD AGREED
ALLOCATE TO ALLEVIATE EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WAS A REAL
DISAPPOINTMENT. SUM WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE REALISTIC, SADAT
DECLARED, IF IF HAD BEEN TEN BILLION. SAUDIS HAVE DESPATCHED
VERY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TO ADMONISH EGYPTIANS AND MAKE CLEAR
THEY DON'T APPRECIATE HIS ATTITUDE.

4. IT MUST BE TOUGH TO BE RICH. EVERYONE OFFERS A NIGHT ON
THE TOWN PROVIDED YOU PAY THE BILL.

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PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SS/O, MR. MACK.

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NNN

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